

COLORADO SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
Spring Managers Meeting Minutes- March 1, 2024
Denver Elks Club, 2475 W 26th Ave., Denver, CO

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Stan Harbour. Board members present: Stan Harbour, Terry Goodrich, Mary Harteker, and Paul Lewandowski. Board members absent: Frank Yost, Jim Mieras, Carter Akerfelds and Joe Zaba. Attendees included those representing 50 teams and 4 Rec Centers
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Harbour asked all veterans to stand to be recognized, and then called on Gene Tomczak, retired military, who lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Introduction of the CSSA Board of Directors & Others:** Harbour introduced the Board members listed above that were present, mentioned those who were absent, recognized those who had served as Standings Secretaries and Mark Gembarowski who handles the CSSA website. Harbour thanked all who help out in operating the league.
- 4. Treasurer's Report and Financials:** Harbour stated that CSSA finished 2023 with an operating loss of ~\$1,500, even with a couple of donations, advised that the team fee had been increased from \$225 per team to \$275, specifically due to the fact that there have been losses for the past several years and that the main item that has kept the finances where they are was a \$5,000 anonymous donation received in 2022. Harbour described a donation received late in 2023 from Bob Rosi, a long time CSSA player and manager, in the manner that he used, i.e. a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD), and that he would be sending information to all managers to request that they, and their players consider donations to CSSA, a 501(c)(3) organization.
- 5. Commissioner's Update/Status of Organization:** Harbour commented on several items, providing information as follows:
 - Harbour stated that the league continues to operate as in years past but expressed concern over the decline in the number of teams participating over the past several years. A brief discussion was held and a few teams advised that they were looking for new players- Gray Wolves (new team in Westminster). Colorado Cougars (70's), Raptors and Louisville Sluggers. Harbour commented that these managers should discuss their situations and combine teams if necessary to keep as many teams playing as possible.
 - Harbour reminded attendees of an issue that had come up at the 2023 Fall Managers meeting in October regarding a "succession", primarily of the Commissioner position, and that the Board will be considering this matter in meetings this year. Harbour stated that any organization or business should have a succession plan.
 - In regard to league play in 2024, Harbour addressed several issues related to "Safety" with brief discussions on each as follows: (1) Aggressive play; (2) Bats; (3) Use of a screen for pitcher's protection, and that managers need to take the lead in helping control/enforce these matters.
 - Harbour reminded all managers that all players SHOULD read the Code of Conduct and the Rules; when players sign the Waiver form, they are stating that they have read these and will abide by them.

- 6. 2024 Season- Spring Packet Information:** Harbour referred to the handout package that all attendees had received, and commented on all information, forms and deadlines in the handout packages as follows:
- A. Important Dates for 2024 Season- The Important Dates listing had been provided previously to all managers and Rec center Reps, which should be used by all to plan your schedules, etc.
 - B. Team Registration Form- **Due April 2, 2024**- Advised that the form has been revised, rearranged to have the first section for the Managers info and then the Rec Center info. Stressed that the information on this form is very important, and critical for the Board to organize the league. He stated that the form should be completed by managers and Rec Center Reps working together to provide complete, accurate and legible information AND submitted no later than the deadline of April 2nd, and hopefully much before that date.
 - C. Roster Form- **Due May 16, 2024**- Stressed the need for Roster and Waiver forms to be submitted by the deadline and in a complete and legible manner.
 - D. Waiver Form- **Due May 16, 2024**- Stressed the need for Roster and Waiver forms to be submitted by the deadline and in a complete and legible manner.
 - E. Roster/Waiver Change Request Form - **Add/Delete Deadline is August 1, 2024 for both the 70's & B-E Divisions**- Use the form to add new players; should be submitted before a new player plays in a game.
 - F. Invoice/Payment of Fees- Team fees paid to CSSA- **Due May 16, 2024**- Included in the handout in case teams or Rec Center Reps need something to send to their accounting/finance departments to get the payments to CSSA in a timely manner.
 - G. *CSSA By-Laws- Stated that the Bylaws are included for anyone interested in how the CSSA organization operates, specifically how the Board functions.
 - I. *CSSA Code of Conduct- Stated that a new Code was revised for the 2022 season and should be read and understood by all managers and players.
 - J. *2024 RULES- Updated from October 2022 Managers Meeting and should be read and understood by all managers and players. No changes from the 2023 Rules for 2024.
 - K. *Use of Screen for Pitcher's Protection- Updated for 2024
* The By-Laws, Code of Conduct, RULES and the Use of the Screen documents were supplied to managers electronically prior to the meeting, with hard copies available to those needing them. This scheme of distribution does not excuse managers from having and knowing all rules, etc. during games. These are also available on the CSSA website – www.coloradoseniorsoftball.com (CSSA tab).
 - L. Softball & Scorebook Distribution Form- Harbour asked that this form be completed and then turned in when managers pick up their balls after the meeting finishes. He noted that the scorebooks were not available and that he would be in touch with managers regarding obtaining the scorebooks.
- 7. Announcements of softball activities in 2024 outside CSSA:**
- Terry Goodrich gave information about the Colorado Senior Softball Travel League (CSSTL) that plays games on Saturdays, April through October, at fields in the Front Range area. Anyone interested should get in touch with Terry.
 - Goodrich spoke of the Scarp Iron Softball Club, the largest softball club west of the Mississippi River, which has travel teams with various age bracketed groups. John Parisi is the President of Scrap Iron and available if anyone needs information.

- Goodrich stated that Scrap Iron Softball is planning a “Wood Bat” tournament at Schaeffer Complex on July27-28, using all six fields. This is a fund raiser for the Scrap Iron Softball Club, a 501(c)(3) organization.
 - Goodrich mentioned that the SSUSA Rocky Mountain Championships would be held at Aurora Sports Complex, August 15-18. Information at www.seniorsoftball.com.
 - Goodrich stated that the Spring Fun League at Vanderbilt Park will NOT be scheduled this year as the field is not available until early April, which limits the time for games before the CSSA 70’s scheduled games begin, but the plans are to have the Fall league there in 2024.
 - Goodrich also mentioned the senior softball leagues in Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak Regional Senior Softball Association- pikespeakregionseniorsoftball.org .
 - Harbour mentioned the Colorado Senior Women’s Softball Association (CSWSA) and recognized Mary Harteker, the Commissioner of the CSWSA. Info can be found at the website, www.coloradoseniorwomenssoftballassociation.com
- 8. OTHER:** Harbour opened the floor for any other issues that attendees wanted to bring up; no matters were raised.
- 9. Next CSSA Board Meeting:** Harbour advised that the next CSSA Board meeting is scheduled for April 2nd, when teams will be placed in the divisions for the first half of the 2024 season.
- 10. Adjournment:** Terry Goodrich motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Don TeStrake. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.
 Minutes recorded by Stan Harbour; 03-01-2024.
 Minutes were approved by the CSSA Board at Board meeting on 4-4-24

After the Meeting, sets of softballs (14 per set) were distributed to team representatives after the meeting. The charge for the softballs will be included in payments of team fees.